

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 042690

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ORIGIN NEA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66011

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:CEJ

APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN

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R 270159Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USEUCOM

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042690

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 042690 ACTION MANAMA JIDDA DOHA ABU  
DHABI KUWAIT MUSCAT CHUSMTM DHAHRAN INFO DHAHRAN TEHRAN  
SECDEF COMIDEASTFOR CINCUSAREUR SANG MODERNIZATION RIYADH  
DISTENGR RIYADH USDESEA KARLSHRUHE 21 FEB QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 042690

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASCH, SEDU, BA

SUBJECT: BAHRAIN SCHOOL

REF: MANAMA 118

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

1. DEPT AND DOD APPRECIATE DETAILED REPORT REFTTEL ON  
STATUS OF BAHRAIN SCHOOL AS IT BEGINS TRANSITION TOWARD  
CIVILIAN STATUS IN MID-1977. WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO LEARN  
THAT BAHRAIN TRUST IS MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD ESTABLISHING  
ITSELF AS A CORPORATE ENTITY AND BY EVIDENCE THAT IT IS  
COMING TO GRIPS WITH SOME OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH MUST BE  
RESOLVED IN ORDER TO PERMIT A SMOOTH TRANSITION. DETER-  
MINATION THAT RETENTION OF K-12 SCHOOL IS ECONOMICALLY  
FEASIBLE IS PARTICULARLY WELCOME.

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PAGE 02 STATE 042690

2. IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR VIEW THAT RETENTION OF THE

BOARDING FACILITY WOULD BE DESIRABLE BOTH TO MEET THE PROJECTED NEEDS OF THE RAPIDLY GROWING US OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE COMMUNITY IN THE GULF AND TO PROVIDE THE OPTION OF AN AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE GULF AREA WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE US. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD ALSO BE IN THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN.

3. HOWEVER, WE RECOGNIZE THE POTENTIAL ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHICH HAS POSES FOR THE BAHRAIN TRUST, AND WE UNDERSTAND THEIR INTEREST IN INSURING THAT A BOARDING FACILITY WILL BE AS SELF-SUPPORTING AS POSSIBLE. CLEARLY, IT IS THE NEED TO REPLACE THE PRESENT CLASSROOM BUILDING WHICH DRIVES THE COSTS OF THE BOARDING FACILITY. ADDITIONALLY, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT THE BAHRAIN TRUST WOULD WISH TO INSURE THAT THE DEMAND FOR A BOARDING SCHOOL IS SUFFICIENTLY GREAT AT THE ANTICIPATED TUITION LEVELS TO JUSTIFY CONTINUING WITH THEIR PLANS.

4. THESE ARE QUESTIONS WHICH CANNOT BE ANSWERED IN WASHINGTON, AND WE CONCUR THAT A REGIONAL DIALOGUE SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. SINCE THE NEEDS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN THE GULF WILL PROBABLY BE THE DETERMINING FACTOR IN DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT A HIGH SCHOOL BOARDING FACILITY WOULD BE A GOING PROPOSITION, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE COMMENTS OF OTHER GULF POSTS CONCERNING PROBABLE NEED FOR SUCH A SCHOOL AND LOCAL PERCEPTIONS OF ITS COMPETITIVENESS IN VIEW OF THE TUITION LEVELS FORESEEN IN REFTEL.

5. THE VIEWS OF THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN SAUDI ARABIA WILL PROBABLY BE DECISIVE. IN THIS REGARD, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE COMMENTS OF JIDDA AND CHUSMTM ON THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC POINTS: (1) WOULD THE SAUDIS BE WILLING TO ACCEPT EDUCATIONAL COSTS UNDER FMS AT THE LEVEL PROJECTED? (2) WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE FOR THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO UNDERTAKE A THOROUGH REANALYSIS OF THE CONDITION OF THE PRESENT CLASSROOM BUILDING IN TERMS OF ITS USABILITY AND REPAIRABILITY (OR ALTERNATIVES) OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 042690

6. FOR EMBASSY JIDDA ONLY: WE WOULD WELCOME YOUR CURRENT VIEWS ON FEASIBILITY AND DESIRABILITY OF ESTABLISHING A USDESEA HIGH SCHOOL IN SAUDI ARABIA WHICH WOULD RELIEVE SOME OF THE PRESSURES ON THE BAHRAIN FACILITIES. WOULD THE SAUDIS BE WILLING TO FINANCE IN WHOLE OR IN PART THE NECESSARY CONSTRUCTION COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH MAINTAINING A US HIGH SCHOOL IN THE GULF

AT BAHRAIN, GIVEN THE IMPACT OF SUCH A FACILITY ON TOUR  
ATTRACTIVENESS AND OTHER FACTORS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE  
SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THEIR OWN PROGRAMS? EAGLEBURGER  
UNQTE. INGERSOLL

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONALIZATION, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, AMERICAN SPONSORED SCHOOLS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE042690  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** FMDICKMAN:CEJ  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760074-0750  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t1976024/aaaaadcr.tel  
**Line Count:** 119  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 MANAMA 118  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 OCT 2004 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BAHRAIN SCHOOL  
**TAGS:** ASCH, SEDU, ECON, BA, BAHRAIN TRUST  
**To:** USEUCOM CINCUSNAVEUR  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006